

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system includes a security management system for
a plurality of managed products. The security
management system stores configuration data for managed
products and managed nodes in a directory.
Configuration data is stored in the directory in the
10 form of configuration objects and setting objects. A
revision history of a configuration object and/or a
setting object can be maintained. Inheritance between
configuration objects is supported so that a
configuration inheritance chain is available. To
15 determine an effective configuration at a point in
time, a parent-child inheritance merge process is used.
To assist the parent-child inheritance process, name
attributes and collision resolution mode attributes are
used.

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